

1 20. (Allowed) The communications system of claim 19 wherein said surge
2 suppressor further comprising an insulating member disposed within said cavity and coupled to
3 said inner conductor for supporting said inner conductor in said cavity to electrically isolate
4 said inner conductor from said housing.

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 9-12 and 17-20 have been allowed. Claims 1 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,845,358). Claims 2-8 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated as being allowable if written in independent form. To expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 13-16 and have amended claims 2-4 and 8 to recite the subject matter of their respective base claim. Upon entering this amendment, claims 2-12 and 17-20 will be pending. In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all objections and rejections of pending claims. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Cited Art Distinguished

Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 1 and 13-16

To expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 13-16 without prejudice.

B. Claims 2-8

In the Office Action dated December 21, 1998, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 2-4 and 8 to recite the subject matter of their respective base claim. Claims 5-7 are dependent upon amended independent claim 3 and should therefore also be allowable. Claims 5-7 are also allowable for other independent reasons.

C. Claims 9-12 and 17-20

Applicants note with appreciation the allowability of claims 9-12 and 17-20 over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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